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## A synonym in the genus *Fluda* (Araneae: Salticidae)

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## A synonym in the genus *Fluda* (Araneae: Salticidae)

Galiano (1971) revised the genus *Fluda* Peckham and Peckham 1892, and later updated the revision with additional descriptions, including a new species (Galiano 1986). In her original revision, she transferred *Keyserlingella perdit* Peckham and Peckham 1892, from Colombia, into the genus. This species was described from both sexes, but only the female was adequately illustrated. Galiano (1971) noted that Banks (1929) had examined only the female type of *K. perdit* when he described the Panamanian *Fluda princeps* from both sexes. She concluded that the male of *K. perdit* was lost subsequent to its description but prior to Banks examination. If the male of *K. perdit* had been available, it would have made more sense to compare both sexes with *F. princeps*. I have been able to confirm that the male of *K. perdit*, supposed to be at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, was lost (V. Wallach, personal communication, 2001).

Another species included in Galiano's 1971 revision was *Fluda usta* Mello-Leitão 1940, described only from the male, collected in Guyana. Given that the male of *K. perdit* technically was described already, and there was no particular reason to match the male of *F. usta* with the female of *K. perdit* considering that they were described from countries which had Venezuela (a moderately large and quite diverse country) between them, it is not surprising that Galiano (1971) failed to recognize that they might belong together.

A checklist of the Salticidae of Trinidad and Tobago (Cutler and Edwards 2001) lists both species, which were collected by the authors in Trinidad. [No nomenclatorial changes were made in that list, although it was apparent that some would be needed.] Complete records are listed below. At one locality, males and females were collected in the same habitat. The similarity in habitus between the two sexes was striking. The original illustrations of the male palp of *K. perdit* by Peckham and Peckham (1892) are quite simple, but what is present is compatible with the illustrations of *F. usta* by Galiano (1971). It seems highly likely that these two described species (for which only one sex of each is adequately or actually known) represent the opposite sexes of one species. Therefore, I make the following synonymy.

Thanks to Van Wallach and Bruce Cutler for confirmation of the status of various specimens, and to Norm Platnick for his World Spider Catalog

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### *Fluda perdit* (Peckham and Peckham, 1892)

*Keyserlingella perdit* Peckham and Peckham, 1892: 70, pl. 5, f. 7 (Dmf).

*Fluda usta* Mello-Leitão, 1940: 186, f. 21-22 (Dm). NEW SYNONYMY

*F. p.* Galiano, 1971: 591, pl. II, f. 14, pl. V, f. 1, pl. VI, f. 2 (f).

*F. u.* Galiano, 1971: 597, pl. I, f. 15, pl. IV, f. 6-7 (m).

**Distribution:** Colombia to Guyana.

**New Records:** TRINIDAD: Valencia Rd. at Oropuche River, 19 Aug 1986, 1m (G.B. Edwards, FSCA); Mamoral Rd. at Talparo River, 20 Aug 1986, 2m 1f 1pen.f (G.B. Edwards, FSCA); 4 mi. post N of Arima, 23 Aug 1986, 1f (G.B. Edwards, FSCA); Arena Forest Reserve (2 km SE of San Rafael), 1 July 1999, 1m (B. Cutler, Cutler coll.).

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